REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application. Claims 1-22 are pending in this application.

Allowed Claims

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of Claims 13-17.

Claim Amendments

Claims 4-6 have been amended above to correct improper claim dependency. Applicant respectfully requests entry of this amendment to put the claims in better condition for appeal.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-12 and 18-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,208,814 to Ulrich et al. (hereinafter "Ulrich") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,202,158 to Urano et al. (hereinafter "Urano"). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-12 and 18-22 are patentable over Ulrich in view of Urano.

The Ulrich reference discloses:

> An apparatus provides for operating an electronic reprographic system containing a method for recovering from crashes in an electronic reprographic system in which multiple jobs are active concurrently. The system provides for the monitoring of jobs active in the system, and of the number of times a specific job is active and the system crashes. By comparing the number of times a crash occurs when a specific job is active with a predetermined threshold number the operator can evaluate whether the system may be corrupted by a specific job or by the concurrency of jobs. The method further provides the operator with instructions to activate the jobs one at a time to determine which job is corrupt and permits the operator to delete a corrupt job. (Ulrich Abstract.)

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Thus, the Ulrich reference discloses a system that correlates active jobs with system crashes. That system supports multiple concurrently active jobs.

The Urano reference discloses:

> A detection method of an illegal access to a computer system includes a step a) of collating user identification information inputted from an input unit in one or more log-in operations with user authentication information registered in the computer system, a step b) of detecting the number of times that the identification information is not coincident with the authentication information in a series of log-in operations within a predetermined term, a step c) of obtaining final log-in information indicating whether the identification information is coincident with the authentication information or not in a final log-in operation, and a step d) of comparing the number of times in respect to the incoincidence and the final log-in information with a predetermined judgment standard to thereby detect the presence of the illegal access. (Urano Abstract.)

Thus, the Urano reference focuses on detecting illegal attempts to access a computer system. Urano does not discuss printer operations, does not discuss handling of errors by a printer and does not discuss rebooting a printer based on a combination of one or more printer errors. Applicant respectfully submits that Urano is unrelated to the tasks at issue in the present application. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would not have considered Urano because the Urano reference has no relationship to the present application. Further, the detection of illegal access to a computer system (Urano) provides no motivation to combine such teaching with a system that correlates active jobs with system crashes (Ulrich).

The Office Action dated Nov. 4, 2004 alleges that the security logging disclosed in Urano is similar to the error logging disclosed in Ulrich because both logging systems "generate large amounts of data and alerts." Office Action, Page 3. "Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time

<p style="text-align:center">8</p>

of invention to incorporate the time periods of Urano into the printer error logging and repair system of Ulrich, thus creating a more robust fault tolerant system." Office Action, Page 3. Applicant respectfully submits that the Ulrich reference should not be characterized as a "printer error logging and repair system". Such characterization is made only as an attempt to create a link (i.e., logging) between the Ulrich reference and the Urano reference. As discussed above, there is no such link between Ulrich and Urano. A search of the Ulrich reference fails to locate the word "logging" and locates only one instance of the word "log", used as follows in the background section of Ulrich:

> An important item of information is the number of times a fault occurs in the system. One method of acquiring and supplying this information to the operator is by recording the faults in a log. By doing so, a threshold number of faults can be established and used to determine the need for further diagnostic action on the system. Col. 1, lines 55-61.

The above text from the background section of Ulrich does not characterize Ulrich as a "printer error logging" system. Further, Ulrich contains no other reference to "logging" or "log". Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the Ulrich reference is not properly characterized as a "printer error logging and repair system" and is not related to Urano in the manner suggested in the Office Action. As such, there is no motivation to combine Ulrich and Urano as suggested in the Office Action.

In response to Applicant's arguments, the Office Action, at page 9, states "The Examiner has chosen to use the portion referring to solving the same problems rather same art within the same environment, which is permissible under current Office Policy." As discussed above, Urano is concerned with the detection of unauthorized access to a computer system. Urano is not associated with printer errors or determining when to reboot a printer based on those errors. Applicant

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submits that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would <u>not</u> have considered Urano because the Urano reference has no relationship to the present application.

The Office Action appears to use "event processing" as a common problem to link Ulrich and Urano to the present invention. Use of an overly broad term such as "event processing" is beyond the reasonable limits of being pertinent to the particular problem with which the inventor was concerned. If such an overly broad term is permitted, the Examiner would be able to use any reference that mentions a processor, mentions a process/procedure, or mentions any type of event to reject a claim, regardless of the relevance of the reference to the claimed invention. Such usage would render the "analogous prior art" rules and statutes meaningless.

Assuming, for the sake of argument only, that Ulrich and Urano could be properly combined and applied under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the combination of Ulrich and Urano does not disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

<u>Claim 1</u>

Assuming, for the sake of argument only, that Ulrich and Urano could be properly combined and applied under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the combination of Ulrich and Urano does not disclose or suggest the elements of claim 1. Ulrich fails to disclose or suggest handling a printer error in different manners depending on whether the printer error has occurred a predetermined number of times within a predetermined time period. The mere mention of a "prescribed time" in Urano fails to remedy the deficiencies in Ulrich. Although Urano mentions a "prescribed time", Urano fails to disclose or suggest handling a printer error in different

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manners depending on whether the printer error has occurred a predetermined number of times within a predetermined time period, as recited in claim 1.

As recited in claim 1, one of two possible actions will occur in response to a printer error. One possible action is the generation of an error message. The other possible action is rebooting the printer. One of these two actions will be performed in response to the printer error depending on whether the printer error has occurred a predetermined number of times within a predetermined time period. Ulrich fails to disclose or suggest the handling of a printer error in this manner. Further, Ulrich fails to disclose or suggest intentionally rebooting a printer if a printer error is detected and the printer error has not occurred a predetermined number of times within the predetermined time period, as recited in claim 1.

Similarly, Urano fails to disclose or suggest the handling of a printer error by performing one of two possible actions, as discussed above. Additionally, Urano fails to disclose or suggest intentionally rebooting a printer if a printer error is detected and the printer error has not occurred a predetermined number of times within the predetermined time period, as recited in claim 1.

The combination of Ulrich and Urano fails to disclose or suggest the handling of a printer error by performing one of two possible actions, as discussed above. Since neither reference discloses this type of operation, the combination of Ulrich and Urano makes no reference or suggestion to the operation recited in claim 1.

Additionally, the combination of Ulrich and Urano fails to disclose or suggest intentionally rebooting a printer if a printer error is detected and the printer error has not occurred a predetermined number of times within the predetermined time period, as recited in claim 1. Since neither Ulrich nor Urano

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discloses or suggests the intentional rebooting of a printer, the combination of Ulrich and Urano fails to disclose or suggest this operation recited in claim 1.

Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over Ulrich in view of Urano. Given that claims 2-8 depend from claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that those claims are likewise allowable over Ulrich in view of Urano for at least the reasons discussed above. Further, claims 2-8 are allowable for additional reasons. For example, claims 4-6 discuss particular aspects of logging printer errors that are not disclosed or suggested by the combination of Ulrich and Urano.

Claim 9

Assuming, for the sake of argument only, that Ulrich and Urano could be properly combined and applied under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the combination of Ulrich and Urano does not disclose or suggest the elements of claim 9. As discussed above, Ulrich fails to disclose or suggest handling a printer error in different manners depending on whether the printer error has occurred a predetermined number of consecutive times. As recited in claim 9, one of two possible actions will occur in response to a printer error. One possible action is the generation of an error message. The other possible action is rebooting the printer. One of these two actions will be performed in response to the printer error depending on whether the printer error has occurred a predetermined number of consecutive times. Ulrich fails to disclose or suggest the handling of a printer error in this manner. Further, Ulrich fails to disclose or suggest intentionally rebooting a printer if a printer error is detected and the printer error has not occurred a predetermined number of consecutive times, as recited in claim 9.

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Similarly, Urano fails to disclose or suggest the handling of a printer error by performing one of two possible actions, as discussed above. Additionally, Urano fails to disclose or suggest intentionally rebooting a printer if a printer error is detected and the printer error has not occurred a predetermined number of consecutive times, as recited in claim 9.

The combination of Ulrich and Urano fails to disclose or suggest the handling of a printer error by performing one of two possible actions, as discussed above. Since neither reference discloses this type of operation, the combination of Ulrich and Urano makes no reference or suggestion to the operation recited in claim 9.

Additionally, the combination of Ulrich and Urano fails to disclose or suggest intentionally rebooting a printer if a printer error is detected and the printer error has not occurred a predetermined number of consecutive times, as recited in claim 9. Since neither Ulrich nor Urano discloses or suggests the intentional rebooting of a printer, the combination of Ulrich and Urano fails to disclose or suggest this operation recited in claim 9.

Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 is patentable over Ulrich in view of Urano. Given that claims 10-12 depend from claim 9, Applicant respectfully submits that those claims are likewise allowable over Ulrich in view of Urano for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claim 18

Assuming, for the sake of argument only, that Ulrich and Urano could be properly combined and applied under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the combination of Ulrich and Urano does not disclose or suggest the elements of claim 18. Ulrich fails to disclose or suggest a printer that intentionally reboots itself if a printer

error has not occurred a predetermined number of times within a predetermined time period, as recited in claim 18.

Similarly, Urano fails to disclose or suggest a printer that intentionally reboots itself if a printer error has not occurred a predetermined number of times within a predetermined time period, as recited in claim 18. The combination of Ulrich and Urano fails to disclose or suggest the intentional rebooting of a printer if a printer error has not occurred a predetermined number of times within a predetermined time period, as recited in claim 18. Since neither Ulrich nor Urano discloses or suggests a printer that intentionally reboots itself, the combination of Ulrich and Urano fails to disclose or suggest such a printer.

Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 18 is patentable over Ulrich in view of Urano. Given that claims 19-22 depend from claim 18, Applicant respectfully submits that those claims are likewise allowable over Ulrich in view of Urano for at least the reasons discussed above.
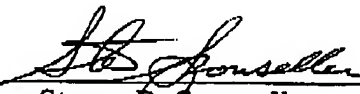
Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the §103 rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Claims 1-22 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application.

Respectfully Submitted,

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